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# COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

## Letter dated 9 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit for your information a statement issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania on 2 September 1993 concerning the withdrawal of armed forces by the Russian Federation from the territory of Lithuania (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the distribution of the present letter and the annexed statement as a document of the General Assembly under item 32 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Lithuania
to the United Nations

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 2 September 1993 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

*In fulfillment of its international obligations, the Russian Federation withdrew its armed forces from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania on 31 August 1993. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania issued the following statement on this occasion:*

Bound by history spanning many centuries, Lithuania and Russia share mutually beneficial economic, cultural and human ties which have, unfortunately, been at times overshadowed by serious political disagreements.

At a decisive moment in the histories of both Lithuania and Russia, when Lithuania set out for the second time upon the road of independence and the Russian people chose a democratically oriented leadership, relations between these two countries were marked by an agreement signed on 29 July 1991. This agreement outlined the foundations for bilateral relations, guided by universally recognized international legal norms. By this agreement, Russia recognized Lithuania as an independent State and affirmed that, having eliminated the consequences of annexation which violated Lithuanian sovereignty, additional conditions would be secured to foster mutual trust between Lithuania and Russia and their peoples. As a result, on 8 September 1992, Lithuania and Russia were able to conclude agreements on the withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of Lithuania. The terms of these agreements were fulfilled on 31 August of this year.

This cooperation between Lithuania and Russia corresponds with the traditions of developing democratic societies and fosters favourable conditions for the implementation of radical economic reforms.

With a view to continuing a political dialogue, negotiations between Lithuania and Russia should address important and pressing issues, such as the compensation of damages suffered by Lithuania and its people, the social welfare of retired Russian military personnel, and the guaranteed economic functioning of the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation.

Lithuania would welcome a successful conclusion of negotiations between the Russian Federation, Estonia and Latvia concerning the swift, orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian military forces. This would strengthen the security of the Baltic region and, consequently, the stability of Europe as a whole.

A new chapter in Lithuanian-Russian relations obliges both parties to broaden cooperation, and to seek practical solutions to problems in an equal partnership through negotiations, fully respecting democratic and legal principles as well as human and national rights and freedoms. The dialogue which has developed thus far has demonstrated that political negotiations on all levels, free of pressure or force, are the key process for resolution of disputes in international relations.